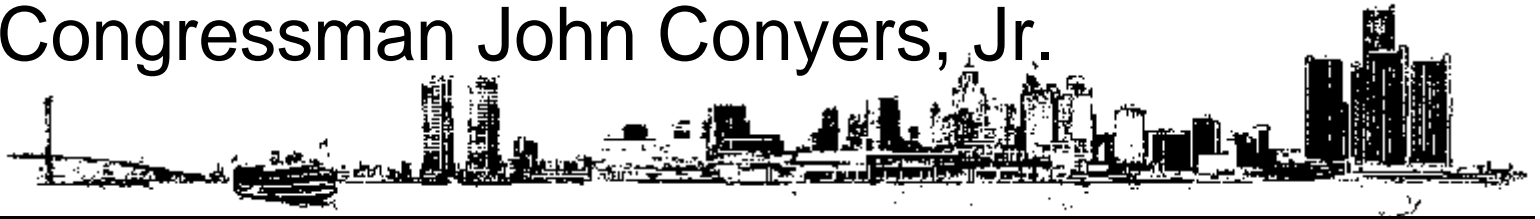


From the office of:

Fourteenth District, Michigan

Congressman John Conyers, Jr.



Ranking Member, House Judiciary Committee

Dean of the Congressional Black Caucus

August 2, 2001

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Conyers Endorses Democratic Immigration Agenda; Calls on Republicans to Stop Stalling on Immigration Reforms

(Washington, DC) Congressman John Conyers, Jr., Ranking Member on the House Judiciary Committee and Dean of the Congressional Black Caucus, issued the following statement regarding the release of the Democratic House and Senate "Principles Statement" on immigration policy:

"We are 7 months into a new Congress and a new Administration. There has been a lot of talk with trial balloons here and rumors there. The bottom line is that the Republicans have not addressed in any serious way the critical needs of immigrants in our country. Only this morning, the House Immigration Subcommittee held a hearing to blame immigrants for every societal ill under the sun.

"In sharp contrast to the Republican agenda, the immigration policies outlined here embrace immigrants arriving at our shores rather than devising ways to send them home before their feet ever hit American soil. It offers stability, work programs and educational opportunities for new immigrants instead of stripping them of the most basic rights afforded our citizens.

"The Republicans, if they truly care about the interests of immigrants, should pass earned legalization legislation. They should provide immigrants with due process in our courts. They should restructure the INS and give it the resources to provide quality services to immigrants. They should raise immigration ceilings to ensure family unification. The Democratic agenda set forth today addresses these important needs.

"Our history shows that the greatness of our country was built on the backs of immigrants. We begin today to re-cast the immigration debate for the future to develop policies that encourage the advancement of this Nation's immigrants."